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Pros and Cons of Mountaintop Removal

Mountain top removal, a method stark and bold,
Strips away the peaks for seams of coal to hold.
It's a tale of two sides, a divisive debate,
Where efficiency and economy often relate.

On one hand, it's cheaper, the proponents will cheer,
No need for deep tunnels, the surface is near.
Explosives and machines, though costly at first,
Reduce the need for labor, quenching energy's thirst.

More efficient than mining in traditional ways,
It accesses thin seams, for which the industry prays.
No more underground dangers, no more miners' plight,
Just open-pit workings from morning till night.

Yet, the cons are substantial, a heavy price paid,
Ecosystems destroyed, and landscapes betrayed.
Mountains once mighty, now hollow and bare,
Leaving communities in despair, gasping for air.

The debris from blasts, in valleys it fills,
Polluting the streams, the rivers, the rills.
Wildlife uprooted, habitats lost,

A line that, once crossed, comes with great cost.

Economic benefits, jobs may increase,
But what of the land? Will its suffering cease?
Infrastructure and healthcare, with funding anew,
Yet, can this compensate for the damage we view?

Non-renewable reliance, a future unsure,
With each mountaintop gone, the less we endure.
Expenses may rise, permits may delay,
But the earth pays the highest price, come what may.

So weigh these pros and cons, with careful thought,
For once the mountain's gone, it can't be re-bought.
A balance must be found, between black coal and green,
In the hopes that both the earth and industry can lean.